

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A pond filter comprising:

a housing having a bottom which can be supported on a foundation, and a wall provided with a water inlet, a channel outlet, and a pond outlet, the housing having a transverse X axis and a longitudinal Y axis defining an XY plane which is parallel to the foundation when the bottom is supported on the foundation;

a flow path between the water inlet and the pond outlet;

a prefiltration unit installed in the flow path and comprising a flat filter screen which is parallel to the X axis and at an acute angle to the Y axis, thereby defining an upper end and a lower end of the screen;

a flushing channel connected to the channel outlet and having an inlet opening;

a flow barrier disposed between the filter screen and the inlet opening of the flushing channel, the flow barrier extending parallel to the X axis over the entire width of the filter screen, wherein the flow barrier is arranged to block intake water in the Y axis during filtration and is overcome by intake water in the Y axis during flushing; and

a filtering device in the flow path downstream of the prefiltration unit.

22. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 21, further comprising a flow diverting device arranged in the flow path between the water inlet and the flat filter screen.

23. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 22, wherein the flow diverting device comprises a flow chamber arranged parallel to the X axis, the flow chamber having at least one outlet opening proximate to the upper end of the filter screen, whereby water flows along the screen toward the lower end and through the screen.

24. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 23, wherein the flow diverting device comprises a plurality of outlets proximate to the upper end of the screen, and a plurality of flow diverting elements arranged adjacent to respective said outlets.

25. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 24, wherein the filter screen comprises a plurality of screen parts, each said screen part being adjacent to a respective said outlet.

26. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 25, wherein each said diverting element can divert water to one or more of said screen parts.

27. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 21, wherein the filter screen comprises a plurality of screen parts extending along the X axis.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 21, wherein the inlet opening of the flushing channel can be closed for filtration and opened for flushing.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 21, wherein the inlet opening has a cross section shaped like a funnel parallel to the Y axis.

32. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 21, wherein the prefiltration unit is pivotable with respect to the housing.

33. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 32, wherein the prefiltration unit is pivotable about a pivot axis which is parallel to the X axis.

34. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 33, wherein the pivot axis is located above the flushing channel.

35. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 21, wherein the flushing channel can be disconnected from the channel outlet so that the filtering device can be flushed along a flow path from the filtering device to the channel outlet.

36. (previously presented) The pond filter of claim 21, wherein the filtering device comprises a plurality of filter cartridges which are compressible for cleaning purposes.

37. (currently amended) The pond filter of claim 21, wherein the filtering device comprises a cartridge containing at least one filtering aid selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, zeolite, and lava rock, ~~and bio-core~~.